

REMARKS

Claims 1 has been amended and claim 9 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 7, 8, 19, and 23-31 have been canceled without disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein or prejudice to Applicants' right to file any continuation applications directed thereto. Claims 32-45 have been added. New independent claim 32 is original claim 2 that has been rewritten into independent form. New independent claim 41 is original claim 7 rewritten in independent form. New independent claim 42 is original claim 9 rewritten in independent form. New claim 43 is original claim 10. New independent claim 44 is original claim 19 rewritten in independent form. New independent claim 45 is original claim 1 with additional features directed to the coupling of the take-up roll and the supply roll. Support for new claim 45 may be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-6, 9-18, 20-22 and 32-45 are pending.

In the Office Action dated January 11, 2006, claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kerwin (U.S. Patent No. 4,239,570). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a transfer device that includes, *inter alia*, a housing, a supply roll rotatably mounted to the housing, a take-up roll rotatably mounted to the housing, and an application head that includes a plurality of rollers rotatable about substantially parallel axes spaced apart from one another, and a closed-loop belt trained about the plurality of rollers to provide a transfer surface facing outwardly of the device. A portion of the liner between the supply roll and the take-up roll is trained over the application head with the adhesive carrying surface facing outwardly of the device and the transfer surface of the belt engaging a backside surface of the liner opposite the adhesive carrying surface. As recited by claim 1, the device is a definite length transfer device and also includes an advancer operatively connected to at least the take-up roll and configured to rotate the take-up roll in an indexing manner to affect the advancement of the liner so that after each advancement, a new portion of the liner is trained over the application head. Kerwin does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1.

Kerwin discloses a machine for transferring indicia to tapered articles at a high rate of speed. *See* Kerwin at Abstract. The belt 71 is driven by the main machine drive. *See* Kerwin at col. 3, lns. 28-31. The take-up spindle (122) of Kerwin is also driven so that a constant tension is applied to the web (15). *See* Kerwin at col. 4, lns. 58-60. Kerwin teaches how to time the rate of speed of the articles and the indicia so that one indicia is applied to each

article. *See* Kerwin at col. 6, lns. 9-68. Kerwin does not disclose or suggest “an advancer operatively connected to at least the take-up roll and configured to rotate the take-up roll in an indexing manner to affect the advancement of the liner,” as recited by claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and the claims that depend from claim 1 are patentable over Kerwin, and respectfully request that the rejection to claims 1 and 3-6 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kucheck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,046,613). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is discussed above and has been amended to include the features of original claim 8. Kucheck et al. does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Kucheck et al. discloses a label applicator (11) that includes a supply reel (21) and a take-up reel (27). *See* Kucheck et al. at col. 2, lns. 43-51. A web (17) that carries adhesive labels (19) is wound on the supply reel (21), and extends over guide rollers (23), a peeling bar (29), in between drive rollers (25), and onto the take-up reel (27). *See* Kucheck et al. at col. 2, lns. 45-51; FIG. 1. Movement of the web (17) across the peeling bar (29) removes the labels (19) from the web (17) and deposits the labels (19) onto a conveyor belt (35). *See* Kucheck et al. at col. 2, lns. 66-68. The web (17) of Kucheck et al. clearly does not engage the belt (35). As such, Kucheck et al. does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1, because Kucheck et al. does not disclose or suggest – at least – “a portion of the liner between the supply roll and the take-up roll being trained over the application head with the adhesive carrying surface facing outwardly of the device and the transfer surface of the belt engaging a backside surface of the liner opposite the adhesive carrying surface,” as recited by claim 1.

Moreover, claim 1 specifically recites an “advancer operatively connected to at least the take-up roll and configured to rotate the take-up roll in an indexing manner to affect the advancement of the liner so that after each advancement, a new portion of the liner is trained over the application head.” Clearly, because Kucheck et al. does not have its liner trained over an application head, it cannot be relied on for teaching the claimed arrangement where the advancement is such that each time a new portion of the liner is trained over the applicator head.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and the claims that depend from claim 1 are patentable over Kucheck et al., and respectfully request that the rejection to claims 1 and 8 (now canceled) be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 11-18, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,730,186). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 11 recites a transfer device for use with a cartridge. As recited by claim 11, the transfer device includes, *inter alia*, a housing defining a cartridge receiving space, an extension member slidably connected to the housing for rectilinear movement relative to the housing along an extension axis, and a cartridge support slidably connected to the extension member for rectilinear movement relative to the extension member along the extension axis, the cartridge support being constructed to mount the cartridge thereon. As recited by claim 11, the cartridge support, the extension member, and the housing are constructed and arranged to enable the cartridge support and the extension member to be moved between (a) an extended position, wherein the extension member extends outwardly from the housing along the extension axis and the cartridge support extends outwardly from the extension member along the extension axis to enable the cartridge to be mounted to the cartridge support, and (b) a retracted position. Takahashi does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 11.

Takahashi discloses a coating film transfer tool that includes a main body (1) that includes a first case (11) and a second case (12) that are coupled together such that they can be divided from each other. *See* Takahashi at col. 7, lns. 40-44; FIGs. 2-3. Takahashi does not disclose or suggest a transfer device that includes an extension member that is slidably connected to the housing for rectilinear movement relative to the housing along an extension axis, and a cartridge support that is slidably connected to the extension member for rectilinear movement relative to the extension member along the extension axis. Because Takahashi does not disclose each and every feature of claim 11, Takahashi cannot anticipate claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 and the claims that depend from claim 11 are patentable over Takahashi, and respectfully request that the rejection to claims 11-18, and 20 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 22 recites a transfer device that includes, *inter alia*, a housing defining a cartridge receiving space, an extension member slidably connected to the housing for rectilinear movement relative to the housing along an extension axis, and a cartridge support slidably connected to the extension member for rectilinear movement relative to the extension member along the extension axis. As recited by claim 22, the cartridge support, the extension member, and the housing are constructed and arranged to enable the cartridge

support and the extension member to be moved between (a) an extended position wherein the extension member extends outwardly from the housing along the extension axis and the cartridge support extends outwardly from the extension member along the extension axis to enable the cartridge to be mounted to the cartridge support, and (b) a retracted position. Takahashi does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 22.

Takahashi is discussed above. Takahashi teaches the use of a single component (second case 12) that extends from the first case (11) when the tool is opened so that a cartridge can be loaded and unloaded. Because at least one of the claimed features of claim 22 is entirely missing from Takahashi, Takahashi does not anticipate claim 22.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 is patentable over Takahashi, and respectfully request that the rejection to claim 22 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Samuelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,613). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 21 depends from claim 11. As discussed above, claim 11 is patentable over Takahashi. Samuelson et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Takahashi. Samuelson et al. discloses a definite length adhesive transfer dispenser (10) that includes a housing (20) that is formed in two pieces, including a base portion (B) and a cover portion (C). *See* Samuelson et al. at col. 6, lns. 51-65; FIG. 1. Samuelson et al. teaches that to access the inner surfaces of the housing (20), the cover portion (C) may be removed. *See* Samuelson et al. at col. 6, lns. 65-68. Hence, Samuelson et al. does not disclose or remotely suggest an extension member slidably connected to the housing for rectilinear movement relative to the housing along an extension axis, and a cartridge support slidably connected to the extension member for rectilinear movement relative to the extension member along the extension axis, as recited by claim 11, and hence claim 21. As such, the combination of Takahashi and Samuelson et al. fail to teach a transfer device having both an extension member and a cartridge support as claimed by claim 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 is patentable over Takahashi in view of Samuelson et al., and respectfully request that the rejection to claim 21 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 7, 9, 10, and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 2, 7, 9, 10, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As stated above, new claim 32 is original claim 2 that has been rewritten in independent form. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 32 is allowable. Because claims 33-40 all depend from claim 32, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 33-40 are also allowable. New independent claim 41 is original claim 7 rewritten in independent form, new independent claim 42 is original claim 9 rewritten in independent form, new dependent claim 43 is original claim 10, and new independent claim 44 is original claim 19 rewritten in independent form. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 41-44 are also allowable. New independent claim 45 is original claim 1 with additional features directed to the coupling of the take-up roll and the supply roll. Kerwin and Kuchek et al. are discussed above. Because neither Kerwin nor Kuchek et al. disclose or suggest all of the features of new claim 45, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 45 is also allowable.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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